

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 LAB-04 COME-00 SS-15 OES-07 H-01
AGRE-00 HEW-04 HUD-01 DOTE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05
NAS-01 NSF-01 OPIC-03 FAA-00 ERDA-05 NSC-05 /063 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN: CWNAAS, RWBEALES:RR
APPROVED BY NEA/IRN: C W NAAS
LAB/ILAB: G HALM (INFO)
COM/CAGNE: P HALE (INFO)
T: D HOFMEISTER (SUBS)
H: D GELBER
OES/APT/BMP: J FRY (INFO)
OES/NET/IM: D HOYLE

-----122384 070441Z /20

R 070005Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213326

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: USIRJC

SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE U.S.-IRANIAN JOINT COMMISSION

REFERENCE: STATE 194862, TEHRAN 7450, TEHRAN 7642

1. WE UNDERSTOOD IN CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI (WHO IS IN SWITZERLAND) THAT GOI HAD BEEN INCLINING TOWARD SUGGESTION FOR USIRJC MEETING ON NOVEMBER 8-9, BUT THAT, AS YOUR 7450 INDICATES, GOI NOW DESIRES TO HAVE NUCLEAR ENERGY BILATERAL AS CENTERPIECE OF MEETING AND PREFERS TO DELAY MEETING UNTIL THAT AGREEMENT IS REACHED.

2. RE PARA 3 YOUR 7450, WE ARE NOT NOW IN POSITION TO
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PREDICT CONFIDENTLY WHEN THE NUCLEAR LEGISLATION WILL BE PASSED. IN THE HOUSE THE BILL SHOULD BE READY FOR FLOOR DEBATE THIS MONTH. ON THE SENATE SIDE THE ENERGY AND THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEES HAVE NOT YET CONSIDERED THE BILL BUT THEY MUST REPORT IT OUT BY SEPTEMBER 23. THE SENATE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HAS COMPLETED ITS WORK. AFTER ACTIONS BY THE FULL HOUSES A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

WILL BE REQUIRED TO RECONCILE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES IN THE TWO VERSIONS. THERE IS A BETTER THAN EVEN POSSIBILITY

THAT ALL STEPS WILL BE COMPLETED BEFORE CONGRESS ADJOURNS, IF, AS WE EXPECT, ADJOURNMENT WILL BE LATER IN OCTOBER THAN THE SCHEDULED DATE OF OCTOBER 7. (WE SHALL KEEP YOU INFORMED.) WE CANNOT COMPLETE A FINAL DRAFT TEXT OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT UNTIL THE FULL PROCESS IS COMPLETED. THEREFORE, FOR PLANNING PURPOSES WE CANNOT COUNT UPON HAVING AN AGREEMENT ON THE BILATERAL IN TIME FOR THE SHAH'S VISIT. WE SHALL, HOWEVER, PRESS AHEAD AS FAR AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN NOW AND THEN.

3. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE IT APPEARS THAT WE HAVE THREE OPTIONS: ESTABLISH WITH GOI FIRM DATES OF NOVEMBER 8-9 AND HOLD MEETING REGARDLESS OF PROGRESS ON LEGISLATION AND NEGOTIATIONS ON BILATERAL; AGREE NOW TO POSTPONE THE USIRJC UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR AT A DATE TO BE DECIDED LATER; OR WAIT UNTIL EARLY OCTOBER TO MAKE DECISION DEPENDENT ON STATUS OF NUCLEAR DISCUSSIONS/LEGISLATION. WE ARE ENTIRELY WILLING TO DEFER TO GOI ON THIS MATTER. PLEASE ASCERTAIN ANSARY'S THOUGHTS. IF HE ASKS OUR VIEW, YOU SHOULD SAY WE INCLINE TOWARD OPTION ONE BUT SHOULD BE COMPLETELY AGREEABLE TO OPTION TWO OR THREE IF THAT WERE IRANIAN PREFERENCE.

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4. CONCERNING PARA 5 OF TEHRAN 7642, WE ARE MEETING NEXT WEEK WITH NEW HEAD OF U.S. SIDE OF BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR VERY PURPOSE OF EXPLORING WAYS TO INVOLVE PRIVATE SECTOR IN USIRJC. THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN PRETTY THOROUGHLY

EXAMINED BEFORE AND U.S. LAWS APPEAR TO MAKE CLEAR ASSOCIATION DIFFICULT.

5. REGARDLESS OF WHEN USIRJC IS HELD WE SHOULD REACH A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING WITH GOI ABOUT COMMITTEE MEETINGS. UNDERLYING OBJECTIVE IS TO PREPARE ADEQUATELY FOR FULL USIRJC MEETING, WHERE DELEGATIONS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH MAXIMUM RANGE OF SUBSTANTIVE MATERIAL INCLUDING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR ACTION BY BOTH SIDES IN THE YEAR AHEAD. IN LIGHT OF ANSARY'S THOUGHTS THAT PERHAPS FULL COMMITTEE MEETINGS NOT NECESSARY, WE HAVE CANVASSED THE U.S. CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEES. CO-CHAIRMAN OF ST AND E COMMITTEE AND MANPOWER COMMITTEE

FEEL FULL COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE NOT NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF SIGNIFICANT PROSPECTS FOR NEW ACTIVITIES; THEY WOULD, ON THE OTHER HAND, APPRECIATE

THE OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THEIR IRANIAN

COUNTERPARTS AND PERHAPS A LIMITED NUMBER OF ACCOMPANYING OFFICIALS WE WOULD EXPECT AGREED WORK PROGRAMS TO EMERGE FROM THESE DISCUSSIONS.

6. CO-CHAIRMEN OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE SEE SOME MERIT IN FULLER MEETINGS OF THEIR COMMITTEES. IN THE CASE OF THE E&F COMMITTEE, ITS ACTIVITIES EMBRACE WIDELY DISPARATE FIELDS, E.G. HOUSING, HEALTH, AGRIBUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION INFRA-STRUCTURE, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. U.S. PARTICIPANTS SUSPECT THAT ALL THESE FIELDS CANNOT BE HANDLED ADEQUATELY BY THE IRANIAN CO-CHAIRMAN ALONE, AND WOULD WELCOME A
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LARGER IRANIAN DELEGATION. SIMILARLY, COOPERATION CURRENTLY UNDER WAY OR UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IS SO VARIED THAT THE U.S. SIDE BELIEVES A FULL AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MAY BE WARRANTED.

7. AN ALTERNATIVE, THOUGH LESS DESIRABLE FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, WOULD BE AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN RESPECTIVE CO-CHAIRMEN ON THE SUBJECT OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES AND AGREEMENT ON LANGUAGE FOR THE COMMISSION COMMUNIQUE.

8. WE CAN DRAW FROM JOINT MINUTES OF THE RECENT ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING MATERIAL FOR USIRJC COMMUNIQUE. VANCE

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